

Salt Lake City, Utah.  
July 24, 1916.

Honorable Reed Smoot,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

July twentyfirst wired Major General A. L. Mills quote Officer Utah Cavalry at border wire me asking I accept commission in guard and join them. If I should consider do to do is there any legal reason why I cannot accept commission under governors appointment unquote. July twentysecond received following reply quote Officers for National Guard must be selected from classes named in section seventy four National Defense Act. Adjutant General is not an officer of national guard unquote. National defense act does not provide what staff officers there shall be in a state. It is within discretion of Secretary of War as heretofore. Circular eight Chief Division Militia Affairs nineteen thirteen provides for staff officers of state including adjutant general and ruling to this time has been that adjutant general officer of guard and he has been invited to participate in Officers schools of instruction. To hold adjutant general not member of guard seems unfair if not arbitrary. I served four years as private and line officer of guard sixteen months in Spanish American war and practically ten years as adjutant general and am not ready to be thrown in the discard. Section seventy four provides that former officers of the army are competent. If I was not an officer of the army during the sixteen months I was in the service of the United States, five continuous months of which I was on the firing line, I wonder in what capacity I was serving. Please see General Mills Chief Militia Bureau personally if you will and advise me thereafter.

Wedgwood.  
Adjutant General

Charge  
National Guard Utah.